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**Hydralector.**

Ogilvie-Grant discusses the forms of the species formerly known as *H. gallinaceus*, and his conclusions regarding subspecies may be questioned. His usage of *Hydralector* is, however, unquestionably wrong. He has quoted my Birds Austr. iii. p. 316, under a name *I did not use*. On p. 314 I restated the case for *Irediparra*, a name which I proposed for this species in the Nov. Zool. vol. xviii. 1911, p. 7. My arguments have been criticised by careful workers, such as Hellmayr, and have been accepted. The correct name is

**IREDIPARRA.**

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**Carpophaga.**

Years ago Richmond pointed out that this name was absolutely preoccupied by Billberg. As a matter of fact, under British usage, it had been continually invalid, as there was a prior *Carpophagus* on record all the time. However, Rothschild and Hartert, the most important workers and writers on New Guinea Birds, simply overlooked this correction and continued the misusage. This was not done intentionally, but was a pure oversight. As the result, the name has been persisted in by Hellmayr, Stresemann, Stuart Baker, and now Ogilvie-Grant. I have already indicated this error twice, and this third correction may induce the acceptance of the correct name

**MUSCADIVORES.****XIV.—Some Notes in reply to Mr. G. M. Mathews.**

By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT.

THE editor of 'The Ibis' having shown me the criticisms made by Mr. Mathews on certain points in the nomenclature used in my Report on the Birds collected in Dutch New Guinea, I feel bound to offer a few remarks in reply.

However careful one may be, errors creep in and are overlooked. This, alas, is inevitable. We are all glad to have mistakes pointed out and to correct them, when such occur. Mr. Mathews complains that I have frequently ignored his "published notes dealing with facts," but the reason is obvious. Our ideas of what constitutes ornithology unfortunately differ very widely. My object has always been to avoid any change of well-known names unless absolutely necessary, and to avoid the needless multiplication of genera and subspecies. Mr. Mathews, on the other hand, in his 'Birds of Australia,' seems to consider it a solemn duty to change as far as possible all names formerly recognised, to use a different generic name for almost every species, and to introduce endless new names for subspecies—very often imaginary and generally almost uncharacterised. A very large number of generic names, and hundreds of specific and subspecific names, have thus been added to the long list of Australian birds (about 850) since Mr. Mathews first commenced his ornithological studies about the year 1907. He seems annoyed that older ornithologists in this country are not disposed to accept his changes in nomenclature and to approve his methods, which, far from advancing our knowledge of birds, have precisely the opposite effect. Such a system of name-juggling and species-splitting as he adopts can only result in hopeless chaos. This seems a very great pity; for had Mr. Mathews, with his resources and exceptional opportunities, continued his great work on the same lines as he commenced it in his first volume, he would have deserved all praise; but now he seems to have run completely off the rails.

Moreover, there is no finality about his work, for he and Mr. Iredale are constantly changing the names which they themselves have adopted.

Take, for example, the case of the Rock-hopper Penguin, occasionally found on the coasts of Tasmania, *Catarrhactes chrysocome* (Forster) of my Catalogue of Birds B. M. xxvi. p. 635 (1898).

1908. Mathews, Handb. Birds Australia, p. 15; this species appears as *Catarrhactes chrysocome*.
1911. Mathews, Birds of Australia, i. p. 277, names it *Penquinus chrysocome chrysocome* in the text and *Catarrhactes chrysocome* on the plate (65).
1912. Mathews, Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 198. *P. c. chrysocome* is again used.
- April 1913. Mathews & Iredale, Ibis, p. 220, call the species *Eudyptes chrysocome chrysocome*.
- November 1913. Mathews, 'List of the Birds of Australia,' p. 4, substitutes *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* Gray for *C. chrysocome*, without offering any explanation.

The type of *C. chrysocome* (Forster) came from Tasmania: *C. pachyrhynchus* Gray is from South Island, New Zealand, and the type is in the British Museum. The differences between the two have been fully set forth in my Catalogue, quoted above.

Again, as regards English names. In 'The Ibis,' April 1913, p. 220, the name "Big-crested Penguin" is applied to a third species, *C. sclateri*, while in the 'List of the Birds of Australia' it is referred to *C. pachyrhynchus*, as the author has misnamed *C. chrysocome* from Tasmania! There is only one example of the Rock-hopper Penguin from the Australian Seas in this country, so far as I am aware, and that is one from Tasmania (the type locality of *C. chrysocome* (Forst.)), sent by Prof. W. A. Haswell, of the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney. Mr. Mathews writes that he intends to describe this typical specimen of *C. chrysocome* as a new subspecies in a forthcoming paper, but on what grounds it would be difficult to guess.

## p. 2. *Gymnocorax senex*.

It is quite an open question whether *Corvus tristis* Lesson & Garnot [Férussac Bull. Sci. Nat. x. p. 291 (1827)] has

priority over *Corvus senex* Lesson, Voyage 'Coquille,' Ois. i. p. 650, pl. 24. The latter name appears both in the text and on the plate, while the name *C. tristis* is not mentioned: later it is referred to by Lesson in his *Traité d'Orn.* p. 327 (1831), where the genus *Gymnocorvus* was proposed. This hybrid name was subsequently amended by Sundevall, *Av. Tentamen*, p. 44 (1872), to *Gymnocorax*, which has since been almost universally adopted.

To the latin diagnosis of *C. tristis* is added the reference (*Atl. Zool.* pl. 24), which, of course, refers to the 'Voyage of the "Coquille," Atlas.' Plate 24 is an excellent representation of the Bare-faced Crow, and, as pointed out above, bears the name *Corvus senex*. It seems certain that this plate appeared before the description of *C. tristis* was published in 1827, as it is there referred to. The title-page of the Atlas bears the date 1826. Similar evidence is to be found in the description of Quoy's Piping Crow, *Barita quoyi* Lesson, *Férussac Bull. Sci. Nat.* x. p. 289 (1827). After the short latin diagnosis, the reference (*Atl. Zool.* pl. 14) is to be found.

Mr. Mathews (*Austr. Av. Rec.* ii. p. 52) gives the dates of issue of these plates as: plate 24 (1828) and plate 14 (1829), but from the above evidence it seems certain that the Atlas of plates must have been issued previous to 1827—probably in 1826, as stated on the title-page. The name *C. tristis* has never been adopted, and there seems to be no possible object in raking it up now.

#### p. 4. *Phonygammus keraudreni*.

No remark is necessary: the date, 1830, as determined by Mr. Sherborn, might certainly have been inserted after p. 636, but it seemed hardly necessary.

#### p. 45. *Oriolus striatus*.

Mr. Mathews proposes to rename this species after myself. *Coracias striata* Shaw, *Gen. Zool.* vii. p. 400 (1809); = *Coracias sajittata* Lath. *Ind. Orn. Suppl.* p. xxvi (1801) [described as the Striated Roller, *Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl.* ii.

p. 122 (1802) New South Wales] ; = *Gracula viridis* Lath. Ind. Orn. Suppl. p. xxviii (1801) [described as Green Grackle, Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. ii. p. 129 (1802) New Holland] ; = *Oriolus viridis* Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. iii. p. 212 (1877) Australia.

Shaw almost certainly wrote *Coracias striata* in error for *C. sagittata*, as, a few pages previously (*op. cit.* p. 396), he had already used the same name, *Coracias striata*, for the little Glossy Starling from New Caledonia known as *Aplonis striata* (Gmel.), Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. xiii. p. 127 (1890). *Coracias striata* Shaw, p. 400, is, of course, invalidated by *C. striata*, p. 396.

*Oriolus striatus* Quoy & Gaim. Voy. 'Astrolabe,' Zool. i. p. 195, pl. ix. fig. 2 (1830), was given to a different species of Oriole from Dorei, New Guinea, and is, therefore, also invalidated by Shaw's name—a fact which I had overlooked.

#### p. 63. Ptilotis.

The species to be included in this genus, whatever name it may bear, is clearly a matter of opinion. A careful revision of the whole group of Honey-eaters is necessary before this rather difficult question can be settled. Meanwhile, I have adopted the name commonly in use.

#### p. 72. Ptilotis chrysotis saturator.

*Meliphaga chrysotis* Lewin, from Australia, is a quite different bird, generically and specifically, from *Philedon chrysotis* Lesson, Voyage 'Coquille,' Atlas, pl. xxi. bis (1826). Lesson, it is true, afterwards [Man. d'Orn. ii. p. 67 (1828)] changed the name of his bird to *Myzantha flaviventer*, because the name *chrysotis* had been given to another species of Honey-eater (*philedon*); but, for the reason given above, his former specific name should stand, even if the generic name has to be changed.

#### p. 139. Monarcha chalybeocephalus.

The same argument put forward under *Gymnocorax senex* applies to this species. There seems to be no reason to

believe that the Atlas of the Voyage of the 'Coquille' did not appear in 1826 as stated on the title-page. In that case, the name *Muscicapa chalybeocephalus* has priority over *Drymophila alecto* Temm. This view was taken by G. R. Gray and Count Salvadori.

p. 145. *Myiagra latirostris mimikæ*.

Mr. Mathews, no doubt rightly, follows Count Salvadori, Orn. Pap. ii. p. 77 (1881), in calling the Australian species *M. ruficollis* Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxvii. p. 13 (1818). Vieillot gives "Nouvelle Hollande" as the locality, which, for some reason, Mr. Mathews has changed to Timor, Austr. Av. Rec. ii. p. 96 (1914), though, in the 'List of the Birds of Australia,' p. 187 (1913), he gives the locality as New South Wales! He was thus able to uphold his *Myiagra ruficollis cooperi* from Melville Island, which he admits is synonymous with Gould's *M. latirostris* from Port Essington, and therefore with *M. ruficollis*. A similar instance occurs in the case of *Solenoglossus aterrimus* (Gmel.), *vide infra*.

p. 177. *Pitta atricapilla*.

*Pitta atricapilla*, the name given by Quoy & Gaimard to the New Guinea species, was published in 1830. *Pitta atricapilla* Lesson, for the Philippine species, was almost certainly published in 1831. It appeared on p. 394 of the 5th Livr. of the *Traité d'Orn.* Mr. C. D. Sherborn has a note that the 5th Livr. was issued at the end of 1830 or the beginning of 1831, but as it was not announced in the *Bibl. Fr.* till March 1831, we may safely infer that it did not appear till the later date.

p. 224. *Lorius*.

There are the strongest objections to transferring this well-known name to *Eclectus*, as it would create great confusion. In any case, the name written by Boddaert was *Larius*, and I am surprised that Mr. Mathews should suggest changing it, though it is obviously a misprint for *Lorius*.

p. 237. *Cyclopsittacus*.

I have carefully considered Reichenbach's plate lxxxii. Syst. Av. (1850), and disagree with Mr. Mathews's conclusions. The drawings are, perhaps, not very good, but sufficiently so, and have been accepted by Count Salvadori. *Opopsitta* Sclater, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 227, was introduced without description, and was most likely a printer's error overlooked by the author, as, on p. 224, he uses the name *Cyclopsitta* in referring to the Philippine species, *Psittacus lunulatus* Scop. The Philippine species were afterwards placed in a separate genus, *Bolbopsittacus*, by Count Salvadori.

p. 240. *Solenoglossus*.

That this name has priority over *Microglossus* was pointed out by Count Salvadori, Cat. Birds B. M. xx. p. 102 (1891), but, for the reason there stated, he did not make use of it. Mr. Mathews's notes on the matter appeared in 1911! There can be no question that Gmelin *did* give "New Holland" as the locality of his *Psittacus aterrimus*, and that a Black Cockatoo *does* occur in Queensland. There is, therefore, no getting away from the fact that *Solenoglossus aterrimus* (Gmel.) is the proper name for the Australian form, and that *S. a. macgillivrayi* is synonymous.

p. 242. *Cacatua*.

The reasons for using the name *Cacatua* are explained by Count Salvadori, Cat. Birds B. M. xx. p. 115 (footnote).

p. 245. *Dasyptilus pesqueti*.

The synonymy appears to be:—

*Banksianus fulgidus* Less. Traité d'Orn. livr. 3, p. 181 (July 1830), fide C. D. Sherborn.

*Psittichas pecquetii* Less., Férussac Bull. Sci. Nat. xxv. p. 241 (read p. 341) (June 1831).

*Dasyptilus pecqueti* Wagler, Monogr. Psitt., Abh. Akad. Wissensch. München, 1829-30, pp. 502, 681, 735 (1832?). The preface to this monograph is dated [p. 468] 1830: the title-page bears the date 1832.

*Dasyptilus pesqueti* has been accepted by G. R. Gray (a most careful bibliographer), by Count Salvadori, and by the great majority of authors.

The name *pecqueti* is a misprint for *pesqueti*, and was subsequently altered by Lesson, Ill. de Zool. pl. i. (1832). He there explains that he received the bird from M. Pesquet.

p. 246. *Eclectus*.

*Vide supra*. Note on *Lorius*.

p. 249. *Ptistes*.

In using this generic name I have accepted Count Salvadori's view. Gould (P. Z. S. 1842, p. 112), the author of *Aprosmictus*, included as the types two species, *A. scapulatus* (= *cyanopygius*) and *A. erythropterus*. Subsequently (Handbook B. Austr. ii. p. 37, 1865) he placed the latter species in a new genus—*Ptistes*. G. R. Gray (Cat. Gen. Birds, 1855, p. 86) gives no reason for adopting *A. erythropterus* as the typical species of *Aprosmictus*, and I therefore uphold the original describer's subsequent choice of a type.

p. 267. *Haliastur indus girrenera*.

No remark seems necessary. I do not quote "primary references" when I consider them superfluous.

p. 268. *Baza subcristata*.

This, again, seems to be merely a question of splitting-up the species generally included in *Baza* into other genera. No data for such changes are supplied, nor have they been published.

p. 275. *Ibis molucca*.

There are the strongest objections to the transfer of the well-known name *Ibis*, and the consequent confusion.

p. 276. *Notophox picata*.

I had overlooked the fact that Sharpe had renamed this species *N. flavirostris*, Cat. Birds B. M. xxvi. addenda, p. 654 (1898),



p. 280. *Hydralector*.

*Metopidius* Wagl. Isis, 1832, p. 279, included *Parra africana* Lath. and *P. ænea*, Cuv.

*Hydralector* Wagen, Isis, 1832, p. 280, included *Parra cristata* Vieill. and *P. gallinacea*, Temm.

In 1840 Gray indicated *P. ænea* Cuv. as the type of *Metopidius*. *P. ænea* (Cuv. 1817) = *P. cristata* (Vicill. 1817) = *P. indicus* (Lath. 1790). His assignment of a synonym of *P. ænea* as the type of *Hydralector* was, of course, a mistake and must be disregarded. The species *P. cristata* Vieill. thus disappears from the genus *Hydralector*, leaving *P. gallinacea* Temm. as the type. Mr. Mathews's name *Irediparra* is a mere synonym of *Hydralector*.

Sharpe subsequently proposed *Phyllopezus* [Cat. Birds B.M. xxiv. p. 76 (1896)] as a new generic name for *P. africana*.

The number of genera made for the Jacanas might probably be reduced with advantage.

p. 301. *Carpophaga*.

*Carpophaga* Billberg, Synopsis, Faun. Scand. i. pt. 2, Table A (1828), is a name proposed for the genus of Cuckoos known as *Phœnicophæus* Vieill. I have not considered it necessary to support this change, which has not been accepted except by one or two persons.

XV.—*Studies on the Charadriiformes*.—IV. *An Additional Note on the Sheath-bills: Some Points in the Osteology of the Skull of an Embryo of Chionarchus "minor" from Kerguelen*.—V. *Some Notes on the Crab-Plover (Dromas ardeola Paykull)*. By PERCY R. LOWE, M.B., M.B.O.U.

(Text-figures 7-11.)

IV. THE SKULL OF AN EMBRYO OF *Chionarchus* "minor."

During the preparation of my paper on the Sheath-bills, published in the January number of 'The Ibis' for 1916 (pp. 122-155), I had unfortunately no time to make a